

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants thank the Examiner for the opportunity to discuss amended claim 1 during a telephone interview on March 5, 2007. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the cited references. The Examiner suggested that Applicants file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Applicants have now filed a Request for Continued Examination with a Preliminary Amendment in order to permit this application to be quickly allowed, and have withdrawn the application from the Appeal stage.

Claims 2-3, 12-13, 18-19, 22-23 and 26 have been canceled.

Claims 11 and 14-16 have been allowed.

Claims 4-6, 9, 24 and 25 have been objected-to.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 17, 20 and 21 have been rejected.

Section 103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 7, 8, 17, 20 and 21 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Kasahara and Iwakawa. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 1 now includes features which are not suggested by the cited references, namely:

- determining a flicker function, wherein the flicker function is a function of flicker frequency, **determined from a product of the frame period and a line frequency in cycles per image frame** of the light source, flicker amplitude and flicker phase of the light source, ...

Basis for amended claim 1 may be found in the specification, for example, at page 10, lines 2-5. As described therein, the flicker frequency is determined from a product of the frame period and the AC line frequency in cycles per image frame. Thus, the flicker frequency is determined from a product of two variables **for every image frame (per image frame)**.

Kasahara calculates a flicker function which depends on multiple frames. As described in column 8, lines 41-60, a predetermined number of frames are averaged by an integration circuit. That is, the integration circuit **averages three frames**. Next, a dividing circuit calculates the output of the integration circuit divided by the computed average (column 8, lines 61-67). The flicker function then judges whether there is flicker using the output of this dividing circuit. Accordingly, Kasahara does **not** suggest determining a flicker frequency based on a **product of the frame period and a line frequency in cycles per image frame**.

Iwakawa uses a sample and hold circuit to compute a reference voltage based on an input voltage. A division circuit performs division of the input voltage by the reference voltage. Such computation is provided for **each scan line of the image**. Accordingly, Iwakawa does **not** suggest **determining a flicker frequency based on a product of the frame period and a line frequency in cycles per image frame**.

Since neither of the cited references suggest the newly added features of amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Although not the same, claims 17 and 21 have been amended to include features similar to amended claim 1. Claims 17 and 21 are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Dependent claims 4-10 depend from amended claim 1. Dependent claim 20 depend from amended claim 17. Dependent claims 24-25 depend from amended claim 21. These dependent claims are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Conclusion

This application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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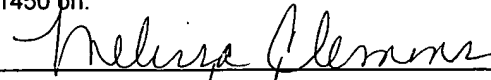
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